

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

INTRODUCED BY R. HAMILTON, FUREY, DICKENSON, BUZZAS, COHENOUR, B. OLSON, BERGREN,
HENRY, BRANAE, JOHN BALYEAT, FACEY, MCALPIN, JACOBSON

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
MONTANA ENCOURAGING THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROUNDABOUTS INSTEAD OF RIGHT-ANGLE
INTERSECTIONS.

WHEREAS, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that nationwide, fatal crashes at
intersections increased 18% during the period between 1992 and 1998; and

WHEREAS, modern roundabouts are designed to control traffic flow at intersections without the use of
stop signs or traffic signals; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been growing interest in the potential benefits of roundabouts
and an increase in construction of roundabouts; and

WHEREAS, although uncommon in Montana, other states and countries are constructing roundabouts
as a safer alternative to intersections; and

WHEREAS, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, South Carolina, Vermont,
and Washington are among the states that are constructing modern roundabouts; and

WHEREAS, the absence of right angles, combined with the necessary reduction in speed, makes
roundabouts safer for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as for motorists; and

WHEREAS, an 8-state study of 24 intersections before and after construction of roundabouts found a
39% decrease in crashes and a 76% decrease in crashes that resulted in injury; and

WHEREAS, COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES CONTRIBUTE TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY AND THE OPERATION OF
COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN ROUNDABOUTS ARE DESIGNED; AND

WHEREAS, the evidence is clear that constructing PROPERLY DESIGNED roundabouts instead of
right-angle intersections in Montana would likely reduce the number of crashes and the number of injuries
suffered by Montana motorists.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That the Department of Transportation and cities and towns in their respective jurisdictions be encouraged to construct more roundabouts instead of signalized, right-angle intersections.

(2) That copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the Governor, to the director of the Department of Transportation, and to the Montana League of Cities and Towns with the request that it be forwarded to each city or town public works department or similar entity involved in road design and construction.

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